

Message Text

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ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IGA-02 RSR-01

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R 240845Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6253

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10882

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE RICE FOR CAMBODIA

REF: A. STATE 167239; B. PHNOM PENH 8619

SUMMARY: ECON/COUNS MADE FORMAL REQUEST FOR EARLY DELIVERY OF JAPANESE RICE TO CAMBODIA. FONOFF REPS SYMPATHETIC BUT NON-COMMITTAL. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) PROVISION BY DEPT AND EMBASSY PHNOM PENH TO EMBASSY TOKYO ANY ADDITIONAL INFO USEFUL IN DEMONSTRATING STABILITY OF CAMBODIA SITUATION TO GOJ. (B) DISCUSSIONS BY DEPT AND EMBASSY PHNOM PENH WITH GKR TO INSURE GKR IS EFFECTIVELY STATING OWN NEEDS TO GOJ. END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUGUST 23, ECON/COUNS AND EMBOFF DISCUSSED CAMBODIAN RICE SITUATION WITH HANABUSA, HEAD, AND KAZUHARA, DEPUTY HEAD, FIRST SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION, AND SASAKI, DEPUTY HEAD, SECOND ECONOMIC COOPERATION DIVISION, FONOFF. DRAWING ON INFO CONTAINED REFS A AND B, ECON/COUNS MADE FORMAL REQUEST THAT GOJ MAKE DELIVERY JAPANESE RICE NO LATER THAN END SEPTEMBER.

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2. HANABUSA EXPLAINED PROBLEMS FACING GOJ, I.E. DE-

PLETION ITS OWN RICE SURPLUS, REQUESTS FOR JAPANESE RICE FROM SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES, RESISTANCE OF OTHER GOJ MINISTRIES TO EXPORT OF RICE TO GKR ON CREDIT BASIS, AND, FINALLY, DISAGREEMENT WITHIN FONOFF WHETHER GOJ RICE FOR CAMBODIA CONSTITUTES EMERGENCY RELIEF OR ROUTINE FOOD AID. IT IS SECOND ECONOMIC COOPERATION DIVISION'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS ON THIS PROBLEM AND PERSUADE OTHER MINISTRIES, HE SAID. FONOFF AWARE, HANABUSA CONTINUED, THAT SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER ARE CRITICAL PERIOD. AS USG HAS NOW MADE FORMAL APPROACH AND GOJ ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO THIS, HE HOPES CONSULTATIONS AND DECISION CAN BE EXPEDITED.

3. SASAKI SAID HIS DIVISION ALSO SYMPATHETIC TO GKR NEEDS AND HAD BEEN CONSULTING WITH OTHER MINISTRIES. GOJ AND GKR HAD ALMOST REACHED POINT OF EXCHANGING NOTES RE THIS TRANSACTION. HOWEVER, WITH CESSATION OF US BOMBING, CAMBODIAN SITUATION HAD BECOME QTE MORE FLUID UNQTE AND OTHER MINISTRIES NOW ADVOCATING CAUTION. HE HOPES THAT FEARS OF IMMINENT GKR COLLAPSE WILL PROVE GROUNDLESS, HE SAID, AND THAT SUFFICIENT STABILITY WILL BE RESTORED SO THAT GOJ CAN PROCEED. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, SASAKI SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO US APPROACH AT THIS TIME. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST PROVISION ANY INFORMATION WE COULD GIVE FONOFF WHICH COULD BE USEFUL IN CONVINCING GOJ OF STABILITY OF CAMBODIA SITUATION.

4. KAZUHARA COMMENTED THAT USG SEEMS MORE INTERESTED IN RICE AID TO CAMBODIA THAN GKR ITSELF. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SUGGESTS DEPT AND EMBASSY PHNOM PENH DISCUSS MATTER WITH GKR TO ENSURE THAT GKR IS EFFECTIVELY STATING ITS OWN CASE TO GOJ.

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